

Appl. No. 09/937,696
Amend. Dated March 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Oct. 9, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claims 10-18 (canceled)

Claims 19-26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (new): A device for coding and marking conveyor belts, the device comprising:

(a) a conveyor belt made of plastic, rubber or a rubber-like material, said conveyor belt comprising a carrying side and a running side;

(b) a coding and marking system completely embedded in an edge region of said carrying side or an edge region of said running side of said conveyor belt such that a profile and function of said conveyor belt is not impaired, said coding and marking system comprising:

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(i) a matrix made of plastic, rubber or a rubber-like material; and

(ii) a plurality of detectable material particles fixedly embedded in said matrix, wherein said plurality of detectable material particles is completely enclosed within said matrix and each of said plurality of detectable material particles is disposed at a predetermined fixed location with respect to each other of said plurality of detectable material particles; and

(c) a static scanner unit for contact-free reading and detecting of said plurality of detectable material particles when said conveyor belt is moved passed said static scanner unit.

Claim 28 (new): The device according to claim 27, wherein said plurality of detectable material particles comprise a magnetizable material admixed with and uniformly distributed in said matrix.

Claim 29 (new): The device according to claim 27, wherein said matrix comprises a material with substantially similar properties to said conveyor belt.

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Claim 30 (new): The device according to claim 27, wherein said coding and marking system has a form of a strip.

Claim 31 (new): The device according to claim 27, wherein said coding and marking system is embedded in said conveyor belt at one or more discrete zones.